

REMARKS

Amendments

Dependent claims 7, 8, and 10 have been amended to include alkyl ammonium, cyclo-alkyl ammonium di-cyclo alkyl ammonium salts of DMTD or TMT. Support for these amendments can be found in Examples 7 and 8 of the patent application. No new matter has been added to the application with these amendments, and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 17-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinko, U.S. Pat. No. 6,139,610. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to remove Al(III) from the recited group of cationic species, as well as removing the mention of aluminum as a metal cation in claims 9 and 10. Applicant has cancelled claims 17-26. Sinko teaches specific metal salts, most notably Zn(II) – DMTD salts. None of the listed metal cations in Sinko are recited in claim 1, and Sinko does not teach the specific metal salts of claim 1. As noted in the specification, the combination of compounds in the present invention was unexpected, as the recited DMTD and TMT compounds were not believed to form partially soluble compounds with the recited metal cations, which is generally a prerequisite for corrosion inhibition (see page 5, line 21- page 6, line 21). Sinko does not disclose the specifically recited metal compounds as claimed in independent claim 1, since it was not known prior to the present invention that the recited metal compound combinations would form a composition together with the recited di-mercapto and poly-mercapto compounds. Further, there was no teaching or suggestion in Sinko that the recited compound combinations would form protective compositions. In fact, the understanding in the field of art at the time of invention would not have provided any suggestion or teaching of the present combinations, as it was generally believed prior to the present invention that the DMTD and TMT compounds would not form the necessary partially soluble compounds when combined with the recited metal cations. Accordingly, independent claim 1 as amended is believed to be patentably distinguished from the prior art, and allowance of claim 1, along with dependent claims 2-4 and 6-12, is respectfully requested.

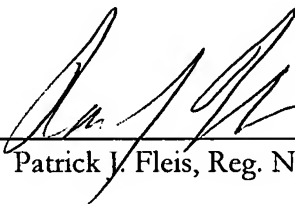
Claims 5 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinko in view of Ernhofer et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,171,861. Ernhofer does not teach the recited metal cations

of claim 1, from which claim 5 depends. As such, the combination of Sinko and Ernhofter would not obviate claim 5, as all of the limitations of the claim of independent claim 1 have not been met. Allowance of claim 5 is requested (Claim 26 has been cancelled).

Conclusion

Applicant has amended claim 1, 9 and 10 to more succinctly recite what the applicant considers as his invention. Applicant has also amended claims 7, 8, and 9 to further distinctly recite what the Applicant believes to be his invention. No new matter has been added with these amendments. Allowance of claim 1, along with dependent claims 2-12, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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